IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, immediately after the title, please insert the following paragraph:

This specification for the instant application should be granted the priority date of December 13, 2002, the filing date of the corresponding German patent application 102 58 263.7 along with the priority date of November 8, 2003, the filing date of the International Patent Application PCT/DE203/003708.

On page 1, line 2, please insert the following heading:

--Background of the Invention--.

On page 3, line 6, please insert the following heading:

--Summary of the Invention--

On page 7, line 16, please insert the following heading:

--Brief Description of the Drawings--

On page 9, line 10, please insert the following heading:

--Description of Specific Embodiments--.

On page 9, lines 16 through page 11, line 5, please amend this paragraph as follows: In the housing 1, a heavy weapon W is supported so as to be pivotable in elevation about a trunnion 3. In the forward portion of the housing 2, in the region ahead of the trunnion 3, on both sides of the longitudinal central axis L (Fig. 6) of the housing, two ammunition magazines 4.1 and 4.2 are disposed in which are arranged shells 4.11 and 4.21 in a vertical orientation with upwardly directed tips. Out of these ammunition magazines 4.1 and 4.2, the shells are conveyed to into region behind the weapon W via a shell supply mechanism that operates fully automatically. This shell supply mechanism has a shell transfer arm 5 that is pivotably mounted on the trunnion 3 and on the rear, free end of which is disposed a loading tray 5.1 of a non-illustrated shell ram. The shell transfer arm 5 can be pivoted out of a raised, non-illustrated position, in which the loading tray 5.1 is aligned with the gun bore axis R of the weapon W,

parallel to the elevation plane, into a lowered position that can be seen in Figs. 1 and 3, and in which the loading tray is oriented essentially vertically, i.e. perpendicular to the housing base 1.1. As can be seen in Figs 1 and 2, the loading tray 5.1 is pivotable about a pivot axis 5.3, which is vertically oriented in the lowered position of the shell transfer arm 5, by 180° between a receiving position, which opens to the region ahead of the trunnion 3, and a delivery position, which opens to the region behind the trunnion 3. In Figs. 1 and 3, loading tray, and a shell disposed therein, are illustrated by dotted lines in both positions. The shell supply mechanism is furthermore provided with a shell transporter 6, which is disposed in the region between the ammunition magazines 4.1 and 4.2. In a manner known per se, the shell transporter 6 has a transport arm 6.1 that is provided on its free end with a gripping mechanism 6.2 that is equipped with two grippers and via which a respective shell 4.11 or 4.21, which is stored in one of the ammunition magazines 4.1 or 4.2, is grasped and is supplied by the shell transporter 6 to the loading tray 5.1 in the lowered position of the shell transfer arm 5. The loading tray 5.1 is then pivoted by 180° about the axis 5.3. The shell transfer arm 5 is then pivoted upwardly into the raised position, and the shell is supplied to the weapon W by the shell ram.

On page 15, after line 7, please insert the following two new paragraphs:

--The specification incorporates by reference the disclosure of German priority document 102 58 263.7 filed December 13, 2002 and PCT/DE2003/003708 filed November 8, 2003.

The present invention is, of course, in no way restricted to the specific disclosure of the specification and drawings, but also encompasses any modifications within the scope of the appended claims.--

In addition, please add the following abstract to the specification:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A firing module having a fully automatic shell supply mechanism for supplying shells to a heavy weapon in a housing. A shell ram having a loading tray is disposed on a free end of a shell

transfer arm that is pivotable between a raised position, in which the loading tray is aligned with the gun bore axis, parallel to a plane of elevation, and a lowered position, in which the tray is essentially vertical. A gripping mechanism on a shell transport arm grasps a vertical shell stored in at least one ammunition magazine for supplying a shell from a shell transporter, to the loading tray, in the lowered position of the shell transfer arm. The ammunition magazines and transporter are disposed in the housing ahead of a trunnion. The loading tray is pivotable about a pivot axis, which is essentially vertical in the lowered position of the shell transfer arm, by at least 180° between a receiving position opening ahead of the trunnion, and a delivery position opening behind the trunnion. At least one propellant charge magazine is disposed in the housing next to or behind the trunnion. A fully automatic propellant charge supply mechanism is disposed in the housing for supplying propellant charges to the weapon, and has a propellant charge supply tray pivotable into a region behind the weapon and in alignment with the gun bore axis.